

If there are other questions, I think that I could answer many of those questions. I'd like to try to answer those questions. I have a copy of the contract. I have had a past relationship with the union in this situation. I can give some historical background as to the law and the relationships, if there are any other questions there. I see no reason why this Legislature can't pass this resolution. It was basically negotiated between labor and management. I'm not sure that the Legislature ought to, because we do not direct employees and that sort of stuff, we basically provide for their pay. Since they're not asking for any increases in pay here, I see no problem with ratifying this contract. It is between labor and management. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, first of all I rise to commend the Speaker for putting the issue before the entire Legislature. Last year the process simply zipped through the Exec Board. There have been a number of questions about whether the Exec Board has the authority on contracts. I knew, when I saw this particular item on the agenda, that it would not be noncontroversial because it contains the words "labor" and "negotiations". The only thing I advised the members of this body, in terms of contractual relationships that we engage in under the direction of the Legislature, was that a new precedent may be established here. Many of us may be interested in terms of all contracts that we engage in. Theoretically, by legislative action, all the contracts are approved by the Legislature, because the dollar level is. So this may open up an entire new ball game of some degree of interest. The issue is, and again I think the Speaker was absolutely correct, that by law someone had to approve the finality of contracts. The reason that was put into law in '69 was to make sure that when a contract existed that it had legislative approval. Certainly if this contract, and I wish Senator Warner was here, is not consistent with the appropriations, then we ought to do something about it. I suspect it is consistent with the appropriations. First of all, it is consistent because most of the people employed in the Department of Labor are paid totally by federal funds and not by state funds. The second thing is that if you want to send this back for a hearing that is fine, but I think it is important that we establish the precedent, again, Senator Luedtke, I commend you for it, that all contracts be brought right out here and approved. In fact, there may be suspect on some that have not been. I know of power study contracts that have been engaged by the Exec Board. I'd like to ask Senator Lewis a question about that. Senator Dick Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Yes sir, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Lewis, I remember a power study last year that was negotiated between the Exec Board and a private firm. Was that brought before the full Legislature?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: No sir. It was year before last, but in answer of your direct question, no sir.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I think there are others that are proposing contractual relations. I believe in 479 we have one on higher education. There may be a question raised by this very action whether or not those contracts were